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several experts is all that any advocate of temperance could desire. The position of Professor Sims Woodhead, who writes the chapter on "The Pathology of Alcoholism," that alcohol is a protoplasmic poison, is in general maintained throughout the book. The question whether alcohol can ever be considered a food or not is not directly discussed, but the implication is that it cannot. In several places it is definitely stated that alcohol is not a stimulant, but always a narcotic; its use even as a medicine, therefore, is very limited, and is justifiable only "as a temporary expedient to overcome a crisis."

Concerning these and other medical points in the work the reviewer did not feel competent to judge. Accordingly he submitted the book to a medical friend, who keeps abreast of the latest developments in the medical sciences. The judgment of this man, who is in no way identified with the temperance movement, was: "The book is all right. It is scientific and up-to-date. It would be a good thing if every man could read it. Up to a few years ago I also taught that alcohol was useful as a medicine in the case of certain diseases, but recent experiments, tests with blood-pressure instruments and the like, seem to disprove this."

Upon the purely social aspects of the liquor problem the book is not as complete as one could desire. In general, the statistics cited are not as full and complete as they should be. This is especially true of the chapter on "The Criminology of Alcoholism." Foreign statistics are rarely referred to; for example, the extensive and valuable work of the "American Committee of Fifty to Investigate the Liquor Problem" is scarcely mentioned. Also one or two absurd statistical errors have crept into the text. For example, on page 4 this statement occurs: "At present we [Great Britain and Ireland] use about fourteen gallons of absolute alcohol a year, per individual." On page 131, however, we are told that the amount of absolute alcohol consumed annually per inhabitant in the United Kingdom is only 8.17 liters. Such errors may cast unjust suspicion in the minds of some upon an otherwise extremely careful and conservative piece of scientific work.

On the whole, then, the work will be found exceedingly valuable for the scientific student of the liquor problem, and will furnish a mass of useful and reliable facts for the practical temperance reformer.

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Ogden, R. (Editor). *Life and Letters of Edwin Lawrence Godkin*. Two vols. Pp. 600. Price, \$4.00. New York: Macmillan Co., 1907.

It has rarely been our pleasure to read a work at once so interesting and valuable as this. Two volumes on the life of the famous editor of *The Nation* and *The Evening Post* (N. Y.). Mr. Ogden has performed his work with notable success. He has told, in a really charming way, the life of Godkin through his letters. And these letters cover such a wide range of life, thought and experience, and in such an interesting and vigorous manner, that

it was only necessary to collect and edit them to present to the world a remarkable picture of a most remarkable man.

Mr. Godkin was born in Ireland, in 1831, and died in 1902. For more than forty years of his varied, full and rich life he lived as a citizen of the United States. Educated at Queen's College, Belfast, trained in the law in London, at the age of twenty-one he began his real life work—Journalism.

In 1856 he came to New York, and from this time until his death he was a vital part of our life. He entered upon the practice of law in 1858, but soon gave his entire attention to journalism—to good government and high standard of thought and literature. Very soon after landing in New York he made a trip through a number of the southern states, for the London *Daily News* and other business reasons. His letters to this paper, written during December, 1856-April, 1857, are very remarkable for their profound insight into the manners, customs, and thought of the southern people. His portrayal of their peculiar thought and feelings, and especially of their one great institution—slavery—is indeed notable for its clearness, vigor and moral tone.

After his return to New York in the spring of 1857, Mr. Godkin continued to write for the *Daily News*. Through this source he was a powerful spokesman to Europe for the North during the Civil War. But his greatest work was yet to be. The founding of that weekly journal of "politics, literature, science and art"—*The Nation*—in 1865. To create and for many years to give life and power to such a high-class journal was a very remarkable work. From its birth until its sale to *The Evening Post* (N. Y.), in 1881, Godkin was truly *The Nation*. His connection with *The Evening Post*, *The Nation* now becoming its weekly edition, as associate editor, 1881-83, as editor-in-chief, 1883-99, gave to the world a wonderfully great service. During all these years the *Post* was the champion of all good causes in government, morals, literature, and was the inveterate enemy of all bad men and measures.

And during all these years Mr. Godkin wrote a number of magazine articles and books. His *Problems of Modern Democracy* and his *Unforeseen Tendencies of Democracy* are books of a high rank.

Through all his writings we find clearness and vigor of style and accuracy of judgment. We know of no saner judgment of Lincoln than that given by Godkin just after the assassination of our great war President. Godkin wrote, in 1865: "The loss of Mr. Lincoln at this juncture would, under any circumstances, have been a terrible blow to the North. It is doubly terrible now, when the soldier has about finished his work, and that of the pacificator has to begin. The United States might be searched in vain for a man who could bring such qualifications to the task as Mr. Lincoln—so much firmness, so much caution, so much gentleness, such profound sympathy with liberty, such hearty respect for labor, and such rare and almost infallible comprehension of the character, aims and need of his countrymen." How wonderfully accurate was this estimate forty years have confirmed!

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